

Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Archie R. Cole Middle School Library

100 Cedar Avenue

East Greenwich, RI 02818

5:41p.m. Executive Session, Mr. Green called the meeting to order. Mrs. Winters made a motion to go into executive session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business exempt from open meetings under General Laws of Rhode Island §42-46-5(a) (1) (2) Teacher Negotiations, Discussion of potential litigation involving claims by H.Carr & Sons. Mr. Sommer seconded the motion which passed 6-0.

Those in attendance were Mr. David Green, Chair; Dr. Deidre Gifford, Vice-Chair; Mr. Jack Sommer; Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters; Ms. Carolyn Mark; Mr. Clark Smith, and Mrs. Susan Records (arrived at 5:45p.m.). Dr. Victor Mercurio, Superintendent; Mrs. Maryanne Crawford, Director of Administration; and Attorney Matthew Oliverio were also in attendance. Mr. Michael Isaacs, Town Council President; Chief Thomas Coyle; Sargent John Carter, and Mr. Robert Houghtaling were present to discuss "School Safety."

7:02p.m. Regular Meeting

I. Call to Order

The meeting was already in session.

II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

III. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

IV. Approval of Minutes

a. Regular and executive for December 4, 2012

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Dr. Gifford, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the regular and executive minutes for December 4, 2012.

V. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Mercurio asked to save his comments for School Safety.

VI. School Safety

In response to last week's tragedy in Newtown, Connecticut, the district administration team met on Sunday to discuss district and school policies and protocols. Safety measures have been reviewed with faculty and staff. Technical pieces involving building security were reviewed and adjustments will be made. The district has been working closely with Chief Coyle and Sargent Carter in reviewing safety procedures. The police department has scheduled visits with each principal to offer comments and suggestions. Faculty and staff are being offered support in responding to student needs. Communication via district list serv was used twice to provide support to the community. Dr. Mercurio thanked Mr. Isaacs, Chief Coyle, Sargent Carter, and Mr. Houghtaling for participating in tonight's meeting. Dr. Mercurio also thanked the local police department, fire department, Town Council, and town staff members

for their support. Mr. Isaacs offered support from the Town Council. Chief Coyle discussed the police department's ongoing training and noted that an officer is assigned to a school each day. Cell phones and portables are used for communication between schools. Sargent Carter explained that the average response time from a 9-1-1 call is about two to three minutes. Mrs. Records asked if the schools need any technology enhancements for communication. Dr. Mercurio and Chief Coyle will review what is in place and report back to the Committee. Mr. Houghtaling said there is a good working relationship between the schools, town, and drug program with ideas and suggestions being shared. Dr. Gifford asked if classroom door locks can be tested. Mr. Sommer thanked all participants and asked if the town/district can reach out to the local daycares and private schools. Mr. Isaacs reiterated the town's full commitment to the safety of all students. Mr. Green expressed his thanks for the cohesive cooperation between the school and town especially in co-funding the Student Resource Officer. Ms. Mark asked Dr. Mercurio about district communications and noted there were some overlaps in communication. Dr. Mercurio explained that some "template" information was used by the schools in their messages.

VII. School Committee Concerns

There were no concerns.

VIII. Action Items

a. Resignation-EGHS Asst Coach Girls' Basketball-Tori Ahrens

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Dr. Gifford, the Committee voted 7-0 to accept the resignation.

b. Appointments

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mrs. Records, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve appointments #1, 2, & 3. Mr. George will draft and forward the after-school schedule.

- 1. EGHS Sophomore Co-Advisor-Anne Marie-Flaherty**
- 2. Choral Position-Elementary Schools-Appendix B-Daniel George**
- 3. EGHS Asst Coach Girls' Basketball**

c. Home School Approval-Grade 11

Dr. Gifford asked if the curriculum is totally DVD-based. Dr. Mercurio said it is. Dr. Mercurio said this revised request fulfills the requirements. On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Ms. Mark, the Committee voted 6-1 to approve the request. Dr. Gifford voted no.

d. Contract- CDWG-Microsoft Agreement

Mrs. Records asked questions regarding support. CDWG will provide support, not Microsoft. On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the agreement.

e. First Read Policy #5415 Personnel Assignment Policy

Dr. Gifford reviewed the policy and explained how this new policy aims to bring the district into compliance with the Basic Education Plan. Attorney Oliverio will revise the footnotes on the policy. This policy will receive a second read/adoption at the next school committee meeting.

f. Finance Committee Appointments

- 1. Fiscal Year 2012-2013**

Five community members applied for the two positions. Mr. Robert Bikash and Mr. David Sullivan are being recommended. Mr. Sommer said both candidates are a good fit and have the budget expertise necessary. Dr. Gifford thanked all applicants who applied. On a motion by Dr. Gifford, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted 7-0 to appoint Mr. Bikash and Mr. Sullivan.

2. Fiscal Year 2013-2014

The Finance Committee has verbal resignations from two current members. Mr. Sommer asked if the new members can begin in July 2013, rather than January 2014. Mr. Green said they can and no vote was needed.

IX. Ad-Hoc Electronic Board Meeting Recommendation

This item was tabled.

X. November Financial Statement

Mrs. Crawford discussed year-to-date expenditures noting her concerns regarding medical self-insurance. Claims have exceeded revenue and if this trend continues, there is a possibility of an 8% increase for fiscal year 2014. Dental is running the opposite with revenue exceeding claims. There may be a rate decrease (8-10%) in dental next year. Mrs. Crawford noted the special education “other purchased services” needs to be adjusted by \$23,000.

XI. Adjournment

On a motion by Dr. Gifford, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted 7-0 to adjourn at 8:25p.m.

CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO
SECRETARY